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32 CFR Ch. V (7–1–09 Edition)

518.21 Collection of fees and fee rates for technical data.

Subpart G—Reports

518.22 Reports control.

518.23 Annual report content.

APPENDIXES TO PART 518

APPENDIX A TO PART 518—REFERENCES.

APPENDIX B TO PART 518—ADDRESSING FOIA REQUESTS.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 551, 552, 552a, 5101–5108, 5110–5113, 5115, 5332–5334, 5341–42, 5504–5509, 7154; 10 U.S.C. 130, 1102, 2320–2321, 2328; 18 U.S.C. 798, 3500; 31 U.S.C. 3710; 35 U.S.C. 181–188; 42 U.S.C. 2162; 44 U.S.C. 33; and Executive Order 12600.

SOURCE: 71 FR 9222, Feb. 22, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 518.1 Purpose.

This part provides policies and procedures for implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5400.7 and promotes uniformity in the Department of Defense (DoD) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program. This Army regulation implements provisions for access and release of information from all Army information systems (automated and manual) in support of Army Information Management (AR 25–1).

§ 518.2 References.

Required and related publications are listed in Appendix A of this part.

§ 518.3 Explanation of abbreviations and terms.

Abbreviations and special terms used in this part are explained in the glossary of AR 25–55.

§ 518.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army (AASA) is responsible for issuing policy and establishing guidance for the Army FOIA Program. AASA has the responsibility to approve exceptions to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. AASA may delegate the approval authority, in writing, to a division chief, under its supervision, within that agency in the grade of O6 or civilian equivalent.

(b) The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, (AASA), The Records and Programs Agency, (RPA), Records Management and Declassification Agency (RMDA), is responsible for developing and recommending policy to AASA concerning the Army FOIA program and overall execution of the program under the policy and guidance of AASA.

(c) The Chief of Information Officer (CIO), G6 will provide oversight of the FOIA program as necessary in compliance with Federal Statutes, regulations, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD).

(d) Heads of Army Staff agencies, field operating agencies, major Army commands (MACOMS), and subordinate commands are responsible for the supervision and execution of the FOIA program in functional areas and activities under their command.

(e) Heads of Joint Service agencies or commands for which the Army is the Executive Agent, or otherwise has responsibility for providing fiscal, logistical, or administrative support, will adhere to the policies and procedures in this regulation.

(f) Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), is responsible for the supervision of the FOIA program within that command pursuant to this part.

§ 518.5 Authority.

(a) This part governs written FOIA requests from members of the public. It does not preclude the release of personnel or other records to agencies or individuals in the Federal Government for use in official work.

(b) Soldiers and civilian employees of the Department of the Army (DA) may, as private citizens, request DA or other agencies' records under the FOIA. They must prepare requests at their own expense and on their own time. They may not use Government equipment, supplies, or postage to prepare personal FOIA requests. It is not necessary for soldiers or civilian employees to go through the chain of command to request information under the FOIA.

(c) Requests for DA records processed under the FOIA may be denied only in accordance with the FOIA (5 U.S.C.

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552(b)), as implemented by this part. Guidance on the applicability of the FOIA is also found in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

(d) Release of some records may also be affected by the programs that created them. They are discussed in the following regulations:

(1) AR 20-1 (Inspector General activities and procedures);

(2) AR 27-10 (military justice);

(3) AR 27-20 (claims);

(4) AR 27-40 (litigation: release of information and appearance of witnesses);

(5) AR 27-60 (intellectual property);

(6) AR 36-2 (Government Accounting Office audits);

(7) AR 40-66, AR 40-68, and AR 40-400 (medical records);

(8) AR 70-31 (technical reports);

(9) AR 20-1, AR 385-40 and DA Pam 385-40 (aircraft accident investigations);

(10) AR 195-2 (criminal investigation activities);

(11) AR 190-45 (Military Police records and reports);

(12) AR 360-1 (Army public affairs: public information, general policies on release of information to the public);

(13) AR 380-5 and DoD 5200.1-R (national security classified information);

(14) AR 380-5 paragraph 7-101e (policies and procedures for allowing persons outside the Executive Branch to do unofficial historical research in classified Army records);

(15) AR 380-10 (Technology Transfer for disclosure of information and contacts with foreign representatives);

(16) AR 381-45 (U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command investigation files);

(17) AR 385-40 (safety reports and records);

(18) AR 600-8-104 (military personnel information management records);

(19) AR 600-85 (alcohol and drug abuse records);

(20) AR 608-19 (family advocacy records); and

(21) AR 690 (series civilian personnel records, FAR, DoD Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) and the Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS) procurement matters).

§518.6 Public information.

(a) *Public information.* The public has a right to information concerning the activities of its Government. Army policy is to conduct its activities in an open manner and provide the public with a maximum amount of accurate and timely information concerning its activities, consistent always with the legitimate public and private interests of the American people. A record requested by a member of the public who follows rules established by proper authority in DA shall not be withheld in whole or in part unless the record is exempt from mandatory partial or total disclosure under the FOIA. As a matter of policy, Army activities shall make discretionary disclosures of exempt records or information only after full and deliberate consideration of the institutional, commercial, and personal privacy interests that could be implicated by disclosure of the information. Activities must be prepared to present a sound legal basis in support of their determinations. In order that the public may have timely information concerning Army activities, records requested through public information channels by news media representatives that would not be withheld if requested under the FOIA should be released upon request. Prompt responses to requests for information from news media representatives should be encouraged to eliminate the need for these requesters to invoke the provisions of the FOIA and thereby assist in providing timely information to the public. Similarly, requests from other members of the public for information that would not be withheld under the FOIA should continue to be honored through appropriate means without requiring the requester to invoke the FOIA.

(b) *FOIA handbook.* The Department of the Army Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (DA FOIA/PA) Office shall prepare, in addition to FOIA regulations, a handbook for the use of the public in obtaining information from its organizations. This handbook will be a short, simple explanation of what the FOIA is designed to do, and how a member of the public can use it to access government records. The DA FOIA/PA Office handbook will explain